

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

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BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

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## 1966-67 WATERFOWL HUNTING "FRAMEWORKS" RELEASED BY INTERIOR

With restrictions eased by improved bird populations, Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall today announced new waterfowl hunting regulations which will permit hunters to expand their game bags.

"Thanks to a larger breeding population and improved nesting areas in the north, we can expect an increased flight of ducks this fall," Udall said. "This season's frame of regulations give hunters a greater opportunity than last year while allowing us to continue building a larger breeding population to take advantage of improved nesting conditions in the North."

Major changes from last year's hunting regulations include removing special restrictions on pintail ducks, removing special bag limits on mallards in the Atlantic and Pacific Flyways and doubling the mallard limits (to 2 per day and 4 in possession) in the Mississippi and Central Flyways.

Basic bag limits in the Pacific Flyway have been increased by 1 bird. Limits remain the same as last year in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Central Flyways, except for the mallard increase, but seasons will be longer.

Limits of 5 daily and 10 in possession will continue on mergansers with special restrictions of 1 daily and 2 in possession for hooded mergansers.

"Of particular interest to many hunters is the change in shooting hours," said John S. Gottschalk, Director of Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife. "For several years the Pacific Flyway has had

shooting hours from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset while in all other flyways, hunters could not begin shooting until sunrise. Dropping species limits allows all flyways to have shooting hours beginning one-half hour before sunrise until sunset this year."

The framework announced today by Secretary Udall is a guideline that States use to select their specific seasons. The Federal rules include the length of season, outside dates within which these seasons must fall, bag limits, and other regulations within which each State establishes its hunting activities for waterfowl.

#### ATLANTIC FLYWAY

Atlantic Flyway seasons on ducks and coots can run for 55 consecutive days between October 8 and January 8, with basic limits on ducks of 3 daily and 6 in possession, or 45 consecutive days with basic limits of 4 and 8. The limits on coots are 10 daily and 20 in possession. Two short or "split" seasons will be permitted, but the total hunting days in that case must be shortened by 10 percent.

No more than 2 wood ducks and 2 canvasbacks can be included in the daily bag with possession limits on these species of 4 each.

There will be two special late seasons in portions of the Atlantic Flyway this year. In coastal areas of Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, a late season on black ducks will be permitted from December 15 through January 8, provided the regular season in those States ends on or before December 14.

Because this season is a means of studying a wintering population of black ducks along the New England coast, a special free Federal permit, available from the respective State game department, is required. Interior's Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife will request selected permit holders to send wings and other information to biologists. Shooting hours for the late black duck season are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset with daily bag and possession limits of 4 and 8.

During the regular duck season following November 15, Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire will also have a bonus daily bag limit of 2 and possession limit of 4 scaup and ringneck ducks, singly or in the aggregate.

Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and designated areas of Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia can have an option of either the extra scaup and ringneck after November 15 or a 15-day late season on these birds between December 15 and January 8. Shooting hours for the special 15-day late season are one-half hour before sunrise until sunset with a daily bag of 5 and a possession limit of 10 scaup and ringnecks, single species or combined.

The Atlantic Flyway may have a goose and brant season of 70 days between October 1 and January 15 with a daily bag of 2 and possession limit of 4 for geese (other than the protected snow goose) and a daily bag and possession limit of 6 brant.

#### MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY

The Mississippi Flyway is permitted a consecutive 45-day season for ducks and coots, or a split season of 41 days, between October 8 and January 8. Basic limits on ducks other than mergansers are 4 daily and 8 in possession, but the daily bag cannot include more than 2 wood ducks, 2 canvasbacks, and 2 mallards, with possession limits at 4. Limits on coots are 10 and 20.

Southern Louisiana will again have limits on scaup and/or ringneck ducks of 2 daily and 4 in possession, in addition to the basic limit.

During that part of the regular season after November 1, a daily bag of 2 and possession of 4 scaup and/or ringnecks will be permitted in Minnesota and Wisconsin, plus designated areas of Missouri and Ohio. During the regular duck season running past October 20, the scaup and ringneck additions will be in effect in the De Noc Bays area of Michigan and, after November 1, in other Michigan areas designated for bonus scaup and ringneck.

The Mississippi Flyway will have a 70-day goose season between October 1 and January 15 with a daily bag and possession limit of 5. Geese, however, cannot be hunted in Issaquena, Sharkey, and Washington Counties of Mississippi or in Dyer, Lauderdale, Shelby, and Tipton Counties of Tennessee. There will be no open season on Canada geese in Arkansas and Louisiana.

The daily bag on geese is limited to no more than 2 Canada geese or subspecies, 2 white-fronted geese, or 1 Canada goose or subspecies and 1 white-fronted goose.

Illinois, Wisconsin, and the Swan Lake area of Missouri, will have quotas on the goose kill. Illinois will be limited to 20,000 birds, Wisconsin to 14,000, and the Swan Lake, Missouri, area to 25,000. In the Squaw Creek area of Missouri, Canada geese may be taken during the first 30 days of the open season for this area. The daily bag is 1 Canada, possession limit is 2. The quota areas will be closed through advance public notice when the limits are reached.

#### CENTRAL FLYWAY

Between October 8 and January 8, States in the Central Flyway may select 60-day seasons for ducks and coots with a basic bag for ducks of 3 daily and 6 in possession, or 50-day seasons with limits of 4 and 8. Split seasons will carry the 10 percent penalty on shooting days. Limits on coots are 10 daily, 20 in possession.

The daily bag limit on ducks other than mergansers may not include more than 2 wood ducks, 2 canvasbacks, and 2 mallards, with possession limits of 4 on each.

The San Luis Valley of Colorado will have an experimental open season on ducks and coots, October 1-18, under a special free Federal permit issued by the Colorado Game and Fish Department. Limits are 5 daily and 10 in possession for ducks and coots collectively. The daily bag cannot include more than 2 canvasbacks or 4 in possession. Shooting hours for the experimental San Luis season are from one-half hour before sunrise until noon.

Between the outside dates of October 1 and January 15, Central Flyway States may select open seasons on geese of 75 days with a daily bag and possession limit of 5 that may not include more than 1 Ross's goose and in the alternative not more than 1 white-fronted goose, 1 white-fronted goose and 1 Canada goose or subspecies, or 2 Canada geese or subspecies. Portions of Conejos, Alamosa, Rio Grande, and Mineral Counties in Colorado will be closed to goose hunting.

Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming will be allowed to select open seasons for designated areas of these Continental Divide States within Pacific Flyway frameworks.

A 30-day season on little brown cranes is permitted between October 29 and November 27 in a designated area of west Texas and eastern New Mexico, with a daily bag of 2 and possession of 4.

#### PACIFIC FLYWAY

States in the Pacific Flyway, except for areas of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho within the Columbia Basin, can select open seasons on ducks, coots, and gallinules of 90 consecutive days, with a daily bag of 5 and possession limit of 10 ducks or a daily and possession limit of 6; or 75-day seasons with basic limits on ducks of 6 daily and 12 in possession or daily and possession limits of 7. Split seasons are authorized with the 10 percent penalty. The outside dates for ducks are October 8 through January 8.

The basic limits on ducks other than mergansers may not include more than 2 wood ducks daily or 4 in possession. The daily bag and possession limit on coots and gallinules is 25 singly or collectively.

Within the Columbia Basin Area, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho may select 100 consecutive days between October 8 and January 22 for ducks, coots and gallinules. Basic limits for all species except mergansers are 6 daily and 12 in possession. Daily shooting hours in the Columbia Basin are from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half hour after sunset.

Between outside dates of October 8 and January 8, Pacific Flyway States may select a 90-day season for geese with a daily bag and possession limit of 6. The daily bag may not include more than 3 geese of the dark species. In Utah and Arizona, plus areas of Nevada and Idaho, and the parts of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico within the Pacific Flyway, daily bag and possession limits may not include more than 2 Canada geese or subspecies. In a designated area of California Fish and Game District 22, the open season for Canada geese will close on December 25 with a daily bag and possession not to exceed 1 Canada or subspecies.

To protect the relatively rare trumpeter swan, seasons on snow, blue, and Ross's geese will be closed in Clark, Madison, Fremont, and Teton Counties, Idaho, and in Beaverhead, Gallatin, and Madison Counties, Montana. In the Pacific Flyway, daily bag and possession cannot include more than 1 Ross's goose. In Washington and Idaho, the daily bag limit is 3 geese with a possession limit of 6. An open season for white geese is permitted in California from January 9 through January 22 with a daily bag and possession limit of 6, of which only 1 may be a Ross's goose.

Between the outside dates of October 8 and February 15, Pacific Flyway States may select open seasons on brant of 80 consecutive days with a bag and possession limit of 3, and seasons on Wilson's snipe of 50 consecutive days with a daily bag of 8 and possession limit of 16.

An open season for whistling swans will be set in Utah, with 1,000 special free permits allowed. The bag limit is 1 swan per permittee, in a season concurrent with Utah's duck season.

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